

SN. 09/863,071

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REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-11, and 13-36 are now pending in this application for which applicant seeks reconsideration.

Amendment

Claims 4 and 12 have been canceled. Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 10, 13, 17-19, 23, 24, 27, 31, and 32 have been amended. New claims 35 and 36 have been added. Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include part of canceled claims 4 and 12, respectively. Part of claims 1 and 9 has been moved to new claims 35 and 36. Independent claims 5, 13, 17, and 18 have been similarly amended to include the storage/storing step. Finally, other independent claims 19, 24, 27, and 32 have been amended to more clearly define the claimed invention. Part of claims 17, 19, and 27 has been deleted to broaden these claims. No new matter has been introduced.

Art Rejection

Claims 1-7, 9-15, 17-23, and 27-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Brooks (USP 6,008,809). Remaining claims 8, 16, 24-27, and 32-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Brooks. Applicant traverses these rejections at least to the extent that Brooks would not have disclosed or taught 1) the claimed storage/control features set forth in claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, and 18; 2) the claimed control features set forth in claims 19 and 27; and 3) the claimed control feature set forth in claims 24 and 32.

Independent claims 1, 9, and 17 call for storing selection history information for each of window display sections selected by a selecting section in a storage and changing the size of each of the window display sections based on the selection history information (e.g., an order of selections) stored in the storage, in response to selection of one of the window display sections. See page 20, lines 13 - 18, of the present disclosure.

The examiner alleges that, with respect to claim 4, Brooks discloses a storage device for storing an order of display precedence and a history of selection of the window display sections based on Brooks' disclosure (column 3, lines 51 - 54). Applicant disagrees. Brooks merely

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discloses that its mass storage interface 140 is connected to a system bus 160. Specifically, Brooks discloses a computer system 100, including a processor 110, a main memory 120, a mass storage interface 140, and a network interface 150, all connected by a system bus 160. See Brooks' column 3, lines 51 - 54 and Fig. 1. There is no mention anywhere what data or information is saved to the storage. Accordingly, Brooks neither discloses nor teaches the storing feature set forth in independent claims 1, 9, and 17.

As to the claimed control (size changing) feature, Brooks merely discloses altering the size of windows within a dynamic window by selecting and dragging the windows into the dynamic window. See Brooks' column 2, lines 34 - 42. Once an application window is selected and dragged into the dynamic window, Brooks calls for dynamically sizing the window, which causes the window to be sized in proportion to other windows already located within the dynamic window. See column 2, lines 22 - 27. Brooks repeats the process of selecting and dragging windows into the dynamic window until all desired windows are displayed within the dynamic window. As windows are dropped into the dynamic window, horizontal and vertical boundary lines are created to separate windows. The size of the windows within the dynamic window can be altered by manipulating the horizontal and vertical boundaries. Brooks, however, fails to disclose or teach changing the size of each of the window display sections based on the selection history information stored in the storage, in response to selection of one of the window display sections. The control feature set forth in claims 1, 9, and 17 further distinguish the claimed invention over Brooks.

Independent claims 5, 13, and 18 call for storing position information for each of a plurality of operation panel windows in a storage, changing the size of one of operation panel window display sections corresponding to the selected one of the window display sections, and calculating a display position of the corresponding operation panel window display section in accordance with the size changing of the selected one of the window display sections and the position information stored in the storage. These claims further call for displaying the size-changed operation panel window display section based on the calculated display position. See page 22, lines 1 - 21 and Fig. 3 of the present disclosure.

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Brooks merely discloses altering the size of the windows within the dynamic window by selecting and dragging the windows into the dynamic window. Brooks neither discloses nor suggests changing the size of one of the operation panel window display sections corresponding to the selected one of the window display sections, calculating a display position of the corresponding operation panel window display section in accordance with the size change based on the position information stored in the storage, and displaying the size-changed operation panel window display section based on the calculated display position as set forth in claims 5, 13, and 18.

Independent claims 19 and 27 call for moving a selected one of the window display sections in the indicated direction of movement, and displaying the selected one of the window display sections at an enlarged size which is larger size than sizes of non-selected ones of the window display sections.

In contrast, while Brooks discloses dynamically expanding or reducing the size of the windows (i.e., "Watermelon.doc" window 502 and "Honeydew.dbf" window 504) within the dynamic window by dragging and moving either the vertical or horizontal splitter 524, 522, or the junction between the vertical or horizontal splitters, Brooks fails to disclose or suggest displaying the selected one of the window display sections larger than the sizes of the non-selected window display sections by merely selecting the desired window display section.

Independent claims 24 and 32 call for displaying a plurality of operation panels each corresponding to one of window display sections. Each of the window display sections and a corresponding one of the operation panel window display sections are displayed separately from each other. At least one of the operation panel window display sections corresponding to the one of the window display sections other than the selected window display section is displayed, in a different display mode from a display mode in which the selected window display section is displayed. See Fig. 9 for example, where an operation panel window 53, 54, 55 corresponding to each of the display section 50, 51, 52 is displayed. The operation panel windows 54, 55 for the non-selected display sections 51, 52 are displayed differently from the operation panel window 53 corresponding to the selected display section 50.

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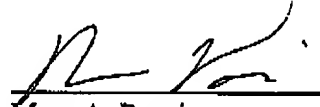
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Brooks discloses a display 500 that displays a tool bar having menus such as "file," "edit," "view," etc. See Figs. 5 - 20. The tool bar is used for filing, editing or viewing a document file in a window, for example. Referring to Fig. 5, Brooks always displays only one tool bar even when more than one windows 502, 504, 506 are open. Accordingly, even if Brooks' tool bar were deemed to correspond to the claimed operation panel window, for argument's sake, Brooks would not have disclosed or taught displaying a plurality of operation panels each corresponding to one of window display sections. Moreover, Brooks would not have disclosed or taught displaying operation panel windows separate from the respective display sections.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that claims 1-3, 5-11, and 13-36 patentably distinguish over the applied references and thus urges the examiner to issue an early Notice of Allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicant urges the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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